

Consolidation methodology

Consolidation aims to reflect the provisions of a given legal act, and its subsequent amendments, as applicable at a certain date (referred to as a 'start date'). Therefore, consolidation is performed according to the date(s) of application of the amending provision(s).

The scope

Currently, consolidation mainly covers amendments or corrections to or repeals of the legislation published in OJ series L or LI. Other documents published in the OJ (treaties, international agreements, complementary legislation and working documents) are consolidated under specific conditions (see below). Certain acts are excluded from consolidation by default. This is typically the case for acts relating to the day-to-day management of agricultural matters, which have very short-term validity. Although they belong to legislation and are published in the OJ L, such acts are not consolidated. The title of these acts is printed in light type (i.e. not in bold) on the OJ cover page.

Purely amending acts (the sole purpose of which is to amend other acts) are not consolidated. Only self-standing amending acts – acts that are primarily intended to lay down autonomous provisions in a given field and, as a consequence or in addition, contain some amending provisions to acts in the same field (see [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1151](#), for instance) – are consolidated in addition to the basic acts they amend.

Treaties, international agreements, complementary legislation and working documents

Only amendments or corrections to or repeals of the acts already consolidated in the collections of treaties, international agreements, complementary legislation and working documents are consolidated on a regular basis. New acts from these collections can be added to the group of documents that are being consolidated.

The start date

The start date distinguishes different versions of consolidated texts. It is indicated on each consolidated text and also forms part of the link to that document. The start date is usually defined based on the following **general rule**: if an amending act contains a date(s) of application, it is taken as a reference, otherwise a date of entry into force defines the start date.

Specific cases for different types of acts

Decisions

Decisions often do not indicate a date of entry into force but rather the following expression: 'enters into force on the date of its adoption' (or equivalent). In such cases, the date of signature is taken as the start date.

If no date is specified, or if the final provision refers to a date of notification, the date of publication is taken as the start date.

However, if a date of application is mentioned, the general rule applies.

Directives

For directives, the date of application is relevant for consolidation rather than the transposition provisions.

If the directive is addressed to all Member States, using the formulation 'Member States shall apply these measures from ...' (or equivalent), this date is therefore assimilated to the date of application. The same rule applies if the directive amends another directive.

If the directive amends a regulation or a decision, the date of entry into force is taken as the start date, as they are not subject to transposition.

The specific date of application does not apply if the directive uses the formulation 'Member States shall apply these measures by ... at the latest' (or equivalent). In this case, the date of entry into force is taken as the start date.

European Central Bank guidelines

Guidelines refer to a date of notification expressed as 'This guideline shall take effect on the day of its notification' (or equivalent). As the day of notification is unknown, the date of publication is taken as the start date.

If the formulation 'The national central banks ... apply the measures from ...' (or equivalent) is used, this date of application is taken as the start date.

Recommendations

The publication date is taken as the start date, as no specific date is mentioned.

Corrigenda

Since corrigenda do not have a specific date of entry into force or applicability, the date of publication of the corrected act (if it is a basic act) is taken as the start date.

Second-level modifications

For second-level corrections or amendments, the start date is that of the amending act that is being corrected or amended.

Example: Regulation (EU) 2017/1347 rectifies Regulation (EU) 2017/1221, which itself amends Regulation (EC) No 692/2008. The start date of the amendment to Regulation (EU) 2017/1221 is 27.7.2017 (start date of Regulation (EU) 2017/134), while the start date of the amendment to Regulation (EC) No 692/2008 is 1.9.2019 (start date of Regulation (EU) 2017/1221).

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